ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a negative electrode active material for a non-aqueous electrolyte rechargeable battery capable of absorbing/desorbing lithium having: an inner layer including at least a material selected from the group consisting of Si, Sn, an alloy containing Si and an alloy containing Sn; and a surface layer including silicon oxide or tin oxide of 0.2 to 1,000 nm in average thickness formed on the inner layer. Use of the negative electrode active material allows obtaining a non-aqueous electrolyte rechargeable battery having high capacity, and excellent cycle life characteristic and high-temperature storage characteristic.